THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI O.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) There are 7 scheduled private airlines namely M/s Archana Airways, East West Airlines, Jet Airways, Modiluft, NEPC Airlines, Sahara India Airlines and Skyline NEPC. the facilities provided to these airlines include check in counters, conveyor belts office space, space for parking equipments used for ground handling services, communication facilities X-ray baggage inspection system etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As regards providing taking off and landing facilities, Airports Authority of India levies charges on the basis of maximum take-off weight of the aircraft. Charges for other facilities are levied on the basis of amounts fixed from time to time.

Cases of Misuse of Modvat

987. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of misuse of MADVAT that have been detected during the last three years and what is the amount involved; and

(b) whether Government still consider that MODVAT is more beneficial than Customs duty in view of the gross misuse?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Details of cases of misues of MODVAT which have been detected during the last three years alongwith the amount involved is as follows;

Years	No. of cases de tected	Amount involved	
1993-94	4786	238	crores
1994-95	18870	696	crores
1995-96	18041	944	crores

(b) There is no correlation between MODVAT and Customs duty. MODVAT is an input duty relief given to the manufacturer to avoid cascading effect of taxation whereas Customs duty is a tax on imports leviable under the Customs Act of 1962.

Effective functioning of Private airlines

988. DR. D. MASTHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact tnat due to privatisation of some of the domestic airlines, the private airlines are working upto expectation.

(b) if not, what action has been taken by Government to ensure effective functioning of the private airlines; and

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government to cancel the licence of the private airlines in case they are not functioning upto the mark?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) All Airlines including private airlines are rquired to function in accordance with the Aircarft Act, Rules and Regulations. Action is taken against the Airlines violating any of the provisions.

Introduction of 'Speed Post' and fax' Facilities in Government Offices

989. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the introduction of Speed Post' and 'Fax' facilities in Government Offices, the mail which used to be sent by post are now being sent by speed post costing the Exchequer more money and similarly FAX has taken the place of Telegrams;

(b) if so, whether Government have carried out any survey of the increase in expenditure;

(c) the measures proposed to check the unabated use of the facilities; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to restrict the air travel on official tours to the officers having the designation of Director and above to curtail Govern ment expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The use of various means of postal communication, including speed post and FAX services, is made by the Ministries/Departments having regard to the urgency and other essential conditions governing expenditure from public funds, as contained in the General Financial Rules, 1963. No. centralised data is available on the expenditure on use of speed post and FAX by various Ministries/Departments. The existing instructions are considered adequate to regulate use of these facilities.

(d) The entitlement for air travel on official tour is already restricted to officers drawing pay of Rs. 5100/- and above. The officers drawing pay between Rs. 4100/and Rs.5100/- can also travel by air, if the distance involved in more than 500 kms. and the journey cannot be performed overnight by train.

Funds for Power Sector from IDBI, ICICI and IFCI

990. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the fund available/earmarked for power sector from IDBI, ICICI and IFCI during the next three years in rupee terms;

(b) how much new generation capacity such funds can support; and

(c) actual funds required for meeting planned capacity addition and measures proposed to meet shortfall, if any?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that all India financial institutions do not earmark and funds sector/industry-wise.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) Does not arise in view of the fact that shortfall cannot be computed in the absence of earmarkings indicated at (a) above.

घाटे में चल रहे क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक

991. श्री राम जेठमलानी: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में 196 क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों में से 160 बैंक अभी भी घाटे में चल रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो 1995-96 में वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान घाटे में चल रहे क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों की संख्या कितनी थी तथा कुल कार्यरत बैंकों की संख्या कितनी थी;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार ने हाल ही में इन बैंकों को दी जाने वाली राजसहायता की राशि बंद करने की घोषणा भी कर दी है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसका क्या कारण है और क्या सरकार ने इन बैंकों को लाभकारी बनाने के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कोई योजना तैयार की है, यदि हां, तो उसका विस्तृत ब्यौरा क्या है?

वित्त मंत्री तथा कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री पी॰ चिदम्बरम): (क) और (ख) देश में 196 क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों में से 164 ने वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान हानियां उठाई है।

(ग) और (घ) क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों को सरकार कोई सब्सिडी नहीं देती है। इसलिए, उसे बन्द करने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है। क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों की अर्थक्षमता में सुधार लाने के लिए विभिन्न उपाए किए गए हैं। इनमें, अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ वे सम्मिलित हैं:—

(i) भारत सरकार ने व्यापक पुनर्संरचना प्रक्रिया के भाग के रूप में, 1994-95 और 1995-96 के